

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing - Department of Social Services Budget

February 16, 2017

PLEASE PROTECT THE SAFETY NET SERVICES NETWORK (DSS Budget in Safety Net and Community Services lines)

A. Madera from New Britain

I am a single mother; I have a child of 3 years and a daughter of 19 years. I have a program to assist the payment of rent. I paid the light and the gas with the money assistance he received from the Department of Social Services. I have problems to find work as I suffer from panic attacks. I forget things and when I try to go out to look for work I get to do anything avoiding leaving.

The Safety Net worker helped me to set goals for my own good and my family. I had never been connected to a mental health program, the Safety Net worker referred me and got the appointment to connect me with a mental help program, I was afraid to go to the appointment and the worker accompanied me to my first session with the therapist. I felt confidence and support. Thanks to the worker of the Safety Net program for helping me attend the mental help program, I am on medication and I know what my diagnosis is and I feel more secure when I go out. I'm also taking my 3-year-old son to school in order to get used to it when he has to start going to school. With regard to lights which in danger of being cut, the Safety Net program helped pay the bill to keep my lights on. I did not have gas in the apartment. I had to heat the water to be able to take a shower. The worker from the Safety Net program referred me to a program in the community to receive assistance for the payment of gas and electricity bills.

Thanks to the support that the Safety Net program has given me, I feel like a person able to support my family. Thanks to my worker for knowing more programs in the community, she helped me apply to the social for disability, due to my mental problem that I suffer. I would recommend this program to others. I am grateful to the worker from the Safety Net program for the support and teaching I have been given and that I can continue to grow with my family.